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Home Appliance *NewsLine*

An AHAM Bulletin to Editors

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RECORD MAY

FOR MAJOR HOME APPLIANCES

CHICAGO -- The major appliance industry shipped over 4.5 million units in May, establishing a new record for the month, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Unlike the slight downturn in consumer demand evidenced for automobiles and other durable goods, home appliance shipments increased 7.5% in May, compared to the same period last year.

Nine of the 12 product categories contributed to the excellent month by surpassing their year-ago levels, and four products, all core products, achieved new May shipment records.

* Refrigerators (686,200 units) were up 11.4%;
* Automatic washers (532,900 units), up 3.5%;
* Electric dryers (284,100 units), up 4.7%; and
* Gas dryers (89,400 units), up 8.9%.

The third largest May shipment of room air conditioners (747,800 units) also contributed to the record total. January-through-May shipments of this product are 23.5% ahead of the same 1988 period, indicating continued high demand following last summer's record heatwave and inventory depletion.

While microwave oven shipments (906,900 units) were relatively average for May, they showed a dramatic increase (up 30.0%) when compared to the

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unusually low shipment level of May 1988. Overall, shipments of this product are not expected to maintain their record pace of recent years now that approximately three-fourths of all U.S. households own at least one microwave oven.

Major appliance shipments for the first five months of the year totaled 21.3 million units for a 6.7% gain over last year's comparable period.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
May, 1989

	MAY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1989	1988	% Change	1989	1988	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	4,508.1	4,194.2	7.5%	21,363.9	20,017.6	6.7%
COOKING - TOTAL	1,338.1	1,111.6	20.4%	6,673.3	6,165.1	8.2%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	263.4	250.8	5.0%	1,234.9	1,239.6	-0.4%
Free Standing	210.4	202.8	3.7%	974.3	994.3	-2.0%
Built-In	53.0	48.0	10.4%	260.6	245.3	6.2%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	181.6	177.8	2.1%	852.4	855.3	-0.3%
Free Standing	172.4	167.9	2.7%	807.0	803.4	0.4%
Built-In	9.2	9.8	-6.1%	45.4	52.0	-12.7%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	906.9	697.4	30.0%	4,655.3	4,143.9	12.3%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	906.4	868.4	4.4%	4,504.2	4,372.6	3.0%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	532.9	515.0	3.5%	2,593.8	2,524.7	2.7%
DRYERS - TOTAL	373.5	353.4	5.7%	1,910.4	1,848.0	3.4%
Electric	284.1	271.3	4.7%	1,475.8	1,431.3	3.1%
Gas	89.4	82.1	8.9%	434.6	416.8	4.3%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	646.3	666.2	-3.0%	3,455.1	3,377.2	2.3%
DISPOSERS	335.8	323.6	3.8%	1,855.6	1,708.1	8.6%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	291.5	325.5	-10.4%	1,509.0	1,572.6	-4.0%
Built-In	276.5	304.9	-9.3%	1,420.4	1,465.7	-3.1%
Portable	15.0	20.6	-27.2%	88.6	106.9	-17.1%
COMPACTORS	19.0	17.1	11.1%	90.4	96.4	-6.2%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	797.3	727.7	9.6%	3,191.5	3,066.4	4.1%
REFRIGERATORS	686.2	616.0	11.4%	2,712.9	2,584.8	5.0%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	111.1	111.6	-0.4%	478.5	481.6	-0.6%
Chest	63.3	61.2	3.4%	273.6	250.5	5.8%
Upright	47.8	50.4	-5.2%	205.0	223.1	-8.1%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	820.1	820.3	0.0%	3,539.7	3,036.2	16.6%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	747.8	708.1	5.6%	3,220.4	2,607.1	23.5%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	72.3	112.2	-35.6%	319.4	429.1	-25.6%

* Domestic plus export shipments: includes both U.S. produced and imported products.
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.